Stage

Golden Girl

Whoopi Goldberg shares her stories, opinions and birthday with Las Vegas

By Patrick Moulin

You'd think that buying a gift for a celebrity would be difficult, but Whoopi Goldberg is easy to shop for. "Get me a dollar scratch-off and I'm happy," she says. But this year, the Academy Award-winning actress will celebrate her 55th birthday with two Las Vegas performances.

The actor, author, comedian and producer has returned from overseeing the final performances of a successful London run of the musical Sister Act, which may make its way here someday. "It might be fun there in Vegas," she says. This is coming from a lady who knows where Las Vegas comes from. "In the old days, you couldn't bring children to Las Vegas," she says. "You could go hear Wayne Newton, or you could go see the tiger men, umm ... Siegfried & Roy, you could go hear Shirley Bassey and Steppenwolf. My time period, which was the '80s, was exciting and wonderful. So I got to meet some of the all-time Vegas folks, like Sammy [Davis Jr.] and Dean [Martin].

One of the guys Goldberg got to know was Ol' Blue Eyes himself, Frank Sinatra, whom she met while filming a commercial for Steve Wynn's then-new casino, The Mirage. "I really liked him. He had a great sense of humor, and there Nov. 12, \$79-\$99, 894-7722.



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Get a View of Whoopi on Nov. 12.

was no one like him. When you listened to him sing, you realized that you were hearing something that was on its own and unlike anything else."

And then there's Bill O'Reilly. As seen on a recent episode of The View, O'Reilly's stubborn views caused Goldberg and fellow co-host Joy Behar to walk off the set. "I suspect that had Joy and I not left, he would not have apologized, which he did," Goldberg says. "Now it was a backhanded apology, but clearly he knew something was necessary, because that's not a man that apologizes for anything."

TI's Mystère Theatre, 7 and 9:30 p.m.

Theater Review

Claire Sinclair turns a 'Paige' at MGM Grand's Crazy Horse Paris

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By Carla Ferreira

With her love for all things vintage and her traditional hourglass figure, Miss October isn't your average Playboy Playmate. Brunette pin-up model Claire Sinclair, 19, recently joined a list of high-profile guest stars at MGM Grand's Crazy Horse Paris. But how did Sinclair's weeklong stint (Oct. 21-28) measure up?

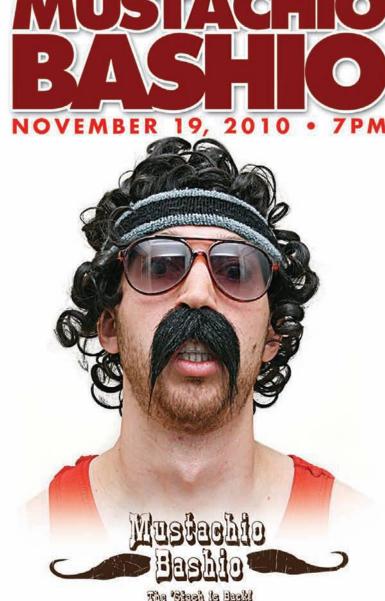
After the signature opening with British Royal Guards, Sinclair appeared solo in the second number—"Leçon de S**é**duction"—in a costume designed for her. The black camisole and rhinestone bra wasn't as exciting as the designer-label decadence of former guest star Dita Von Teese.

Sinclair's next act, "Upside Down," was set to a sultry remix of Britney Spears'

"Toxic." Unlike former guest star Carmen Electra, Sinclair has no previous dance history. This translated into some awkward grinds, slides and rolls around a lip-shaped sofa. Although she didn't move with the grace of the regular cast, Sinclair pulled off some memorable Bettie Paige poses.

All in all, Sinclair was an OK reason to see this beloved show again. But, really, vou don't need a reason. Lest we forget amid the excitement of celebrity, the regular cast of Crazy Horse is sexy, talented and entertaining enough on its own.

8 and 10:30 nightly, dark Tuesdays, MGM Grand's Crazy Horse Cabaret Theatre, \$50.50-\$85.50, 891-7777.



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